

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 and 31-34 are pending. Claims 8-30 and 35-38 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 31, and 34 have been canceled. Reconsideration and re-examination of pending claims 1, 6, and 7 is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2006, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the portion objected to by the Examiner has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter thereby traversing the rejection. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the § 112 rejections to claims 6-7, which now depend from claim 1, have also been overcome.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has stated that claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to add the limitations of claim 5 and intervening claim 4. Applicant contends that claim 1 is now allowable.

CONCLUSION

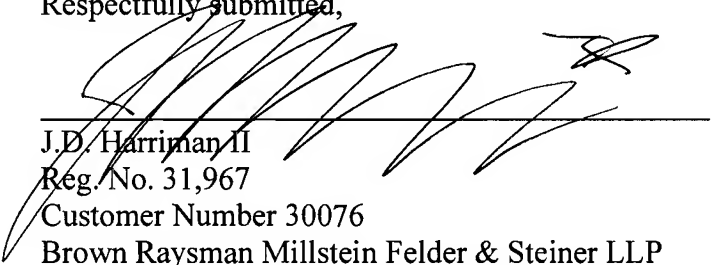
Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1, 6, and 7 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed due with the submission of this paper. However, if the Applicant is mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees from Deposit Account No. 502811.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8300. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2006



J.D. Harriman II
Reg. No. 31,967
Customer Number 30076
Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP
1880 Century Park East, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, California 90067-1621